

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 02215 271043Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 /057 W
-----015053 271210Z /12
R 271020Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5662

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 2215

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SO
SUBJ: SIAD WARNS PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS

REF: FBIS DTG 161204Z DEC 77

1. DURING HIS SPEECH TO THE MEDICAL GRADUATES ON DEC 16, PRESIDENT SIAD PUBLICLY WARNED PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS IN SOMALIA THAT THE GOVT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GSDR) WOULD NOT TOLERATE DUPLICITY. A DAY LATER IN HIS MEETING WITH CODEL TSONGAS AND BONKER, SIAD OBSERVED: "THE SOVIETS HAVE THEIR STOOGES IN SOMALIA TOO." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE KNEW WHO THEY WERE, BUT DID NOT MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

2. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO BASIS FOR CONCLUDING THAT A PURGE IS IN THE OFFING. SIAD'S PUBLIC REMARKS WERE NOT CARRIED IN THE SOMALIA NEWS AGENCY (SONNA) COVERAGE OF THE 16TH SPEECH. THE MOGADISCIO COFFEE HOUSE CIRCUIT IS NOT CHURNING OUT PURGE REPORTS, NOR DOES THERE SEEM TO BE ANY DIPLOMATIC GOSSIP ON THE SUBJECT. FURTHERMORE THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN SIAD'S STATEMENTS AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FINANCE MINISTER (MOGADISCIO 2198) AS FAR AS WE CAN DISCERN. (THIS IS AN ACTION THAT STILL REMAINS A RIDDLE TO OBSERVERS HERE.) THE EMBASSY FINDS THAT THE ONCE REPRESSIVE CLIMATE IN MOGADISCIO HAS MODIFIED CONSIDER-
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 02215 271043Z

ABLY SINCE THE NOV 13 BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS, AND SIAD APPARENTLY ENJOYS MORE PERSONAL POPULARITY THAN HE HAS SINCE HE ASSUMED POWER. GIVEN THESE FACTORS THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION FOR HIS DEC 16 AND 17 STATEMENTS UNLESS SIAD HAS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CERTAIN SOVIET AGENTS AND INTENDS TO PERMIT THEM SUFFICIENT LATITUDE TO CONVICT THEMSELVES BY THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

SIAD CAN CERTAINLY AFFORD TO BE PATIENT AT THIS POINT.
HE CAN ALSO AFFORD TO BE TOLERANT. PERHAPS HE HOPES TO
DO NO MORE THAN INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL OPPOSITION BY
WARNING THEM IN ADVANCE THAT THEY WILL BE PORTRAYED AS
SOVIET DUPES. WHATEVER THE CASE, THE SUBJECT WAS CLEARLY
ON HIS MIND ON THE 16TH AND 17TH.
LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, SO, (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
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